

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims:

1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn) A method for stimulating an immune response to a self antigen, said method comprising contacting a mammalian T cell with a first immune response stimulating agent and an effective dose of a CTLA-4 blocking agent characterized as specifically binding to the extracellular domain of CTLA-4 and inhibitory of CTLA-4 signaling;

wherein said dose is effective to increase the response of said mammalian T cell to said self antigen.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said first immune response stimulating agent comprises a self antigen preparation.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 14, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises a tumor vaccine comprising irradiated tumor cells.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said irradiated tumor cells comprise cytokine-transduced tumor cells.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 14, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises tumor cell lysates.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 14, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises purified protein.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said mammalian T cell, said first immune response stimulating agent and said CTLA-4 blocking agent are further combined with a second immune response stimulating agent either simultaneously or sequentially.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said mammalian T cell is an autoreactive mammalian T cell.

21. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting the growth of ~~increasing the activation of T-cells against~~ non-T-cell tumor cells ~~and tissue cells~~ in a mammalian host, the method comprising:

contacting at least one T cell of said host with (a) a self antigen preparation comprising a tissue specific self antigen, wherein said self antigen is expressed on tissue cells and non T-cell tumor cells arising from said tissue and (b) a CTLA-4 blocking agent characterized as specifically binding to the extracellular domain of CTLA-4 and inhibitory of CTLA-4 signaling, wherein said CTLA-4 blocking agent comprises an antibody or a fragment thereof,

wherein said contacting is effective to break immune tolerance against said self antigen and stimulate an autoreactive T cell response against said tissue cells and inhibit growth of said non T cell tumor cells expressing said self antigen.

22 (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises a tumor vaccine containing said self antigen.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said tumor vaccine comprises cytokine-transduced tumor cells containing said self antigen.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said self antigen preparation comprises tumor cell lysates containing said self antigen.

26. (Cancelled)

27 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said contacting step comprises administering said self antigen preparation and said CTLA-4 blocking agent to said mammalian host either simultaneously or sequentially.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein said contacting step occurs *ex vivo* and said at least one T cell is administered to said host.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, comprising contacting said mammalian T cell with an immune response stimulating agent either simultaneously or sequentially.

32. (Cancelled)